

this is not the case on what may be termed the 2nd Line; and I expect much from a commando now in the field under Mr. Cole Civil Commissioner of Albert.

It is indeed melancholy to observe the awful state of the country, on which you so truly comment. Major-General Somerset is now detached into the Colony from the immediate frontier, and the Frontier Orders of the 13th instant show that he is ably exerting himself to meet the evil. However much I admire the conduct of the Albany Rangers, and I have every reason to do so, I cannot admit that the inhabitants of Graham's Town have done as much as might have been expected to contribute towards the general defence. And I ground such an assertion upon their noble conduct in 1835.

Your comments upon the defection of the Hottentots are most just—lamentable is that defection, and equally unexpected by me as by yourselves.

It has cramped my movements and protracted the duration of the war, which would otherwise have, ere this, been brought to a conclusion. I am but too well aware, Gentlemen, of the helpless condition of very many of the inhabitants of the Colony; no one can more regret it than myself, and I feel additional pain because I know that the greater part of the evils which have assailed them might have been averted. Had the Burghers at once turned out at the commencement of hostilities, we should not now have to deplore all that you so truly and lamentably describe.

In 1849 I proposed to the Colony an improvement and modification of the system called the Commando system, which it most unthinkingly opposed. Had the force contemplated by that improved system, been at my disposal, the state of affairs would have been indeed far different from what it is now within the colonial border.

The course I have pursued in British Kaffraria is the correct one. Had I swerved from a perseverance in it, however lawfully the marauding parties have recently carried on their depredations, there would then have been a general rush into the Colony of the whole Kafir tribes. In war, that must be attempted which carries with it a prospect of the greatest general benefit to the whole. I posted the division of the troops under Major-General Somerset at Fort Hare, as a second line for interior defence, and for the Burghers to rally round. Major-General Somerset has moved this division, with my sanction, into the most disturbed districts; and this most active and enterprising officer has my authority to establish posts of Burghers at every prominent point best calculated to repel banditti.

You are of opinion that the time has now arrived when every able-bodied man should be required to turn out. I think this time arrived seven months ago, and I accordingly then called upon them by proclamation to do so. But what was the result? Whenever the Burghers will turn out for the occupation of posts, you are aware that I ration them and feed their horses; and their services are important. Two thousand of the Hottentot levies have, as you know, returned to their homes. I am in daily expectation of further reinforcements from England; and on their arrival, if Major-General Somerset's operations have not had their desired effect, and if the present demeanour of the Kafirs, which, from the recent and continued successes against them in British Kaffraria is decidedly that of dependency, continues, I may be enabled to make a more extended disposition of the force under my command.

I have thus entered into the subject with you, Gentlemen, with a desire to show that while, as a

citizen, I sympathize in the present calamity, as Commander-in-Chief, I am exerting myself to the utmost to restore tranquillity.

I have, &c.

H. G. SMITH.

Enclosure No. 5.

MEMORANDUM.

I HAVE before me the report of Major Warden, the British Resident, and of Major Donovan, of the Cape Mounted Rifles, commanding the troops at Bloem Fontein, under date respectively the 6th and 4th instant.

Although I am well aware of the difficulty of collecting men from different bodies, none of whom are particularly alert in turning out in aid of Government, it appears to me that the attack upon the enemy's position at "Vier Voet," was in some degree precipitated before sufficient resources had been collected to enable the commander to calculate on success.

The assault in the first instance most assuredly well succeeded; and had the Borolongs been steady after their success, the present result would not have occurred. But in all attacks, and especially those in which bodies of men of the most irregular description are employed, reserves should invariably be held in readiness. The assault of these strongholds, without overpowering means, should be avoided. It appears to me that the course now to be pursued, if no other has been already adopted, is to call out the Burgher population, and the active and efficient men of every tribe which adheres to Government; and as soon as these are collected a forward movement in force should be attempted. But unless Major Warden and Major Donovan have every reason to calculate upon the success of their operations, they should not, for the present at least, become the assailants, but, in again taking the field, entice the assaults of the enemy. The three six-pounder guns at Bloem Fontein ought all to be taken into the field. I am aware that only one is horsed, but spans of bullocks are available for draught. No species of force is more inefficient than a single gun; when, therefore, two are in the field, they should be kept together, and no gun ought to be detached without British infantry.

I hope that the four months' provisions which I have always directed to be kept in store at Bloem Fontein, are so; and I desire that even this store of four months be now increased.

Major Warden will call upon the Volunteer force, which I understand exists at Bloem Fontein, but of which I have never received an official report, to embody themselves and occupy the "Queen's Fort," while the most effective men of Her Majesty's troops are in the field.

Major Warden will take care to avail himself of the co-operation of the chief Sikonyella, alluded to in his report. He will induce all the Fingoes to rally round his standard, and he is authorised to issue pay and rations to such as enrol themselves in the mode adopted within the colony.

Major Warden will convey to Field Commandant Erasmus my admiration of the gallantry which he and the Burghers under him displayed on the 30th ultimo, and in calling on the rest of the Burghers to take the field, the tenure on which they hold their lands from Government, he will cite the conduct of these brave and loyal men, in order to induce them to do so.

Major Warden will also convey to the chief Moroko my sympathy in the family loss he has sustained, which I hope will be an inducement to